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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
MINAKO HIJIKATA ET AL. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1634  
SERIAL NO.: 09/813,990 :  
FILED: MARCH 22, 2001 : EXAMINER: CHAKRABARTI, A.  
FOR: GENETIC POLYMORPHISM OF :  
MXA PROTEIN AND USE  
THEREOF

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated July 11, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17.

Please add the following claims.

18. A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using  
interferon- $\alpha$  and/or interferon- $\beta$  for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus,  
comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(at) the polynucleotide of Sequence ID No. 1 in the sequence listing;

(bt) a modified polynucleotide derived from (at) by inclusion of one or several

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